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REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 25th February 1899.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

| No. | Names of Newspapers. | Place of publication. | Reported number of subscribers. | Dates of papers received and examined for the week. | REMARKS. |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------|
| BENGALI. | | | | | |
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | | |
| 1 | "Bangavasi" ... | Calcutta ... | 25,000 | 18th February, 1899. | |
| 2 | "Basumati" ... | Ditto ... | 15,000 | 23rd " " | |
| 3 | "Hitavadi" ... | Ditto ... | About 4,000 | 17th " " | |
| 4 | "Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ... | Ditto ... | 1,800 | 20th " " | |
| 5 | "Prativasi" ... | Ditto ... | ..... | 20th " " | |
| 6 | "Samay" ... | Ditto ... | 3,000 | 18th " " | |
| 7 | "Sanjivani" ... | Ditto ... | 3,000 | 18th " " | |
| 8 | "Som Prakash" ... | Ditto ... | 1,000 | 30th January " | |
| <i>Daily.</i> | | | | | |
| 1 | "Dainik Chandrika" ... | Calcutta ... | ..... | 20th to 24th Feb. 1899. | |
| 2 | "Samvad Prabhakar" ... | Ditto ... | 2,000 | 18th and 22nd " " | |
| 3 | "Samvad Purnachandrodaya" ... | Ditto ... | 200 | 20th to 24th " " | |
| HINDI. | | | | | |
| <i>Fortnightly.</i> | | | | | |
| 1 | "Marwari Gazette" ... | Calcutta ... | 400 | | |
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | | |
| 1 | "Bharat Mitra" ... | Calcutta ... | ..... | 20th | |
| 2 | "Hindi Bangavasi" ... | Ditto ... | 6,500 | 13th and 20th " " | |
| PERSIAN. | | | | | |
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | | |
| 1 | "Hablul Mateen" ... | Calcutta ... | ..... | 20th | " " |
| 2 | "Mefta hur-zafar" ... | Ditto ... | ..... |  |  |
| URDU. | | | | | |
| 1 | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | |
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | | |
| 1 | "Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide." ... | Calcutta ... | 820 | | |
| 2 | "General and Gauhariasfi" ... | Ditto ... | 830 | 21st | " " |
| <i>Tri-weekly.</i> | | | | | |
| 1 | "Nusrat-ul-Islam" ... | Calcutta ... | ..... |  |  |
| BENGALI. | | | | | |
| BURDWAN DIVISION. | | | | | |
| <i>Fortnightly.</i> | | | | | |
| 1 | "Ulubaria Darpan" ... | Ulubaria | ..... |  |  |
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | | |
| 1 | "Bangabandhu" ... | Chandernagore | ..... | 17th | " " |
| 2 | "Bankura Darpan" ... | Bankura | 572 | 16th | " " |
| 3 | "Burdwan Sanjivani" ... | Burdwan | 240 | 21st | " " |
| 4 | "ChinsVartavaha" ... | Chinsura | 400 | 12th and 19th | " " |
| 5 | "Education Gazette" ... | Hooghly | 1,350 | 17th | " " |
| 6 | "Pallivasi" ... | Kalna | 475 | 15th and 22nd | " " |
| BENGALI. | | | | | |
| PRESIDENCY DIVISION. | | | | | |
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | | |
| 1 | "Murshidabad Hitaishi" ... | Berhampore, Murshidabad. | 655 | 15th and 22nd | " " |
| 2 | "Pratikar" ... | Ditto | 603 | 17th | " " |

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS—concluded.

| No. | Names of Newspapers. | Place of publication. | Reported number of subscribers. | Dates of papers received and examined for the week. | REMARKS. |
|-----|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| | URIYA. | ORISSA DIVISION. | | | |
| | <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | “Sambalpur Hitaishini” ... | Bamra in the Central Provinces. | ..... | ..... | This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained. |
| 2 | “Sambad Vahika” ... | Balasore ... | 150 | | |
| 3 | “Uriya and Navasambad” ... | Ditto ... | 309 | | |
| 4 | “Utkal Dipika” ... | Cuttack ... | 400 | | |
| | HINDI. | PATNA DIVISION. | | | |
| | <i>Monthly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | “Bihar Bandhu” ... | Bankipur | About 600 | | |
| | URDU. | | | | |
| | <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | “Al Punch” ... | Bankipur | 500 | 17th February, 1899. | |
| 2 | “Gaya Punch” ... | Gaya ... | 400 | 13th " " | |
| | BENGALI. | RAJSHAHI DIVISION. | | | |
| | <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | “Hindu Ranjika” ... | Boalia, Rajshahi ... | 243 | 15th | This paper is not regularly published for want of type. |
| 2 | “Kangal” ... | Cooch Behar ... | ..... | 22nd | |
| 3 | “Rangpur Dikprakash” ... | Kakina, Rangpur ... | 180 | ..... |  |
| | HINDI. | | | | |
| | <i>Monthly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | “Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika.” | Darjeeling | ..... |  |  |
| | BENGALI. | DACCA DIVISION. | | | |
| | <i>Fortnightly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | “Faridpur Hitaishini” ... | Faridpur | 755 | 11th | " |
| 2 | “Kasipur Nivasi” ... | Kasipur, Barisal | 315 | 11th | |
| | <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | “Charu Mihir” ... | Mymensingh ... | 900 | 13th | " |
| 2 | “Dacca Prakash” ... | Dacca ... | 2,400 | 19th | |
| 3 | “Sanjay” ... | Faridpur ... | ..... | " |  |
| 4 | “Saraswat Patra” ... | Dacca ... | About 500 | 18th | |
| | ENGLISH AND BENGALI. | | | | |
| | <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | “Dacca Gazette” ... | Dacca ... | 500 | 20th | " |
| | BENGALI. | CHITTAGONG DIVISION. | | | |
| | <i>Fortnightly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | “Tripura Hitaishi” ... | Comilla | 450 | 16th | " |
| | <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | “Sansodhini” ... | Chittagong | 120 | | |
| | BENGALI. | ASSAM. | | | |
| | <i>Fortnightly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | “Paridarsak” ... | Sylhet | | | " |
| 2 | “Silchar” ... | Silchar, Cachar | 340 | | |

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Habul Mateen* of the 20th February does not believe the Paris correspondent of the *Morning Post* newspaper, who says that the Amir has expressed a strong desire to make a friendly alliance with Russia, who assured him that such an alliance would be beneficial to Afghanistan. Perhaps the *Morning Post* intends to see another Afghan war or it would not have published such a baseless rumour.

HABUL MATEEN,
Feb. 20th, 1899.

The rumoured Russo-Afghan alliance.

such an alliance would be beneficial to Afghanistan. Perhaps the *Morning Post* intends to see another Afghan war or it would not have published such a baseless rumour.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 13th February, writing from Simuikandi, within the jurisdiction of the River thefts and dacoities in the Mymensingh district, complains of the prevalence of river thefts and dacoities in the creeks of the Meghna, in which boats laden with merchandise take shelter at night. The Bhairab police is not quite ignorant of these crimes, but it does nothing to put them down.

CHARU MIHIR,
Feb. 13th, 1899.

3. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 15th February complains that great difficulty has of late been experienced in Berhampore town in getting passes for processions sanctioned. The clerks of the police office find fault with applications on trifling grounds and get them rejected by the District Superintendent of Police.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Feb. 15th, 1899.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

4. A correspondent of the *Pratikar* of the 17th February fails to see why the upright and impartial Magistrate of Murshidabad has been so much attacked in the newspapers.

PRATIKAR,
Feb. 17th, 1899.

The Magistrate of Murshidabad. One who knows how much generosity and sympathy with the masses characterise his tours in the mufassal cannot but feel the highest respect for him. He questions every raiyat about his material welfare and keeps himself carefully informed of all cases of zamindari and police oppression. As a judicial officer, he makes no distinction between high and low, rich and poor, as some Magistrates do. He has incurred blame in connection with the Lalbag and Berhampore municipal cases. But both those cases were instituted on the report of the auditor and were decided by Deputy Magistrates. If there was any miscarriage of justice, Deputy Magistrates who tried the cases were responsible for it, and not the District Magistrate. The latter had no alternative but to institute the cases when the auditor reported embezzlement. The second charge of high-handedness against the Magistrate is that he had without sufficient reason taken away the license under the Arms Act belonging to the widow of Luchmipat Singh Bahadur. The fact is this: A certificate for six thousand rupees was sent to Berhampore for execution against Luchmipat Singh's widow. On behalf of the lady, however, very strong opposition was made to the execution. It was even said that the *nazir* and other men who were sent by the Magistrate were threatened by the firing of guns. Was not that enough to offend the Magistrate of the district? When, however, the Magistrate learnt that his *amla* were not entirely faultless in the affair, he of his own motion granted a new license to the lady. In the Jangipore coin-counterfeiting case and in the case of Bhagavati Charan Ray of Kanchanlola, the Magistrate has been unjustly blamed, as the cases were disposed of by Deputy Magistrates. In the case of the medical practitioner Khudiram Ghosh, we fail to see how blame can attach to the Magistrate. The case was instituted at the Civil Surgeon's initiative, and the conviction by the Magistrate was upheld in appeal by the District Judge.

The Magistrate is equally blameless in the case of the fourth teacher of the Kandi School. He was invited to inspect the school and its library. It is true he could not arrive at the appointed time; but he gave previous intimation that he might be a little late. Still, no arrangement was made for his reception, and the fourth teacher gave a rude reply when he was asked to open the library room.

Far from doing anything wrong by clearing the jungle in the *khās mahal*, the Magistrate has, by this action, improved the health of that quarter.

The editor fully agrees with the correspondent. The Magistrate is doing everything that can make the people of the district happy. It is his impartial administration of justice which has aroused against him the displeasure of some people who are missing no opportunity to fix upon him the blame which ought to be borne by his subordinates. He has been, for instance, blamed for the bad working of the Certificate Department, though it is the *amla* who are more to blame in this connection than the Magistrate. The Magistrate has as a rule remedied all the defects which have been brought to his notice.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 17th, 1899.

5. The *Hitavadi* of the 17th February records complaints against the

Deputy Magistrate of Bogra. He has prosecuted the Deputy Magistrate of Bogra. a complainant in a paddy-cutting case under

section 193 of the Indian Penal Code for making

false statements in his deposition. In the same case a witness for the prosecution has been fined Rs. 25 for some discrepancy in his deposition. The defendant, too, has been fined Rs. 10. It requires no uncommon intelligence to see that when the complainant and his witnesses are prosecuted for perjury, it is not necessary for the defendant to call rebutting evidence. This Deputy Magistrate, however, does not see this. He has, it appears, the power to try *badmashi* cases, *i.e.*, cases under the section about "habitual offenders." Lately, in such a case, he issued a warrant against a witness for the defence without giving an order for enlargement on bail. The witness had to remain in police custody, and was not likely to give impartial evidence.

HITAVADI.

6. A correspondent of the same paper complains of the conduct of the

temporary Munsif of Habiganj. He at first quarrelled with the pleaders and they resolved not to

appear in his court. The Munsif was in a fix, and had to express regret for his conduct. Thus foiled in his attempt to ill-treat the pleaders, the Munsif has taken to ill-treating his subordinates—the *amla* and peons of his Court. He does not even hesitate to abuse the sarishtadar. He is always late in attending court, but is highly offended if any of his subordinates is even unavoidably late. He also leaves Court late in the evening, and makes the Court staff remain in the office till a late hour. The court peons have to mount guard in his house, and are fined for even the smallest dereliction of duty.

HITAVADI.

7. The same paper complains against Maulvi Fazlal Karim, Subdivisional Officer of Munshiganj in the Dacca district.

Maulvi Fazlal Karim.

The son of one Tarachand Majhi has been murder-

ed, in a place close to the police-station, evidently by robbers. The Subdivisional Officer, however, is dealing with the case in a manner which leaves little room for hope that justice will be done in the case. Tarachand petitioned the Lieutenant-Governor for the transfer of the case to the file of another court, but has received no reply to his petition. It is true that Tarachand ought to have moved the higher court in this case instead of petitioning the Lieutenant-Governor. But ought not the Lieutenant-Governor to have, nevertheless, made an enquiry into the charges preferred against the Maulvi in the petition? Murder has become pretty frequent in Munshiganj of late. There were, last year, as many as twelve murders in the subdivision. This does not certainly speak well for the Maulvi's ability and efficiency.

HITAVADI.

8. A correspondent of the same paper complains against Munshi Altaf Hosain, Sarishtadar of the Bankura District

District Judge's Court. It is alleged that he is introducing uneducated and incompetent men into the office in

disregard of the claims of candidates better qualified. Here are a few instances of the jobberies committed by him:—

1. Ram Gopal Dubé, a muharrir in the Judge's Court, has a well-furnished kitchen garden. He has been appointed by the sarishtadar to the officiating peshkarship in the Subordinate Judge's Court.

2. The promotion of Upendra Chandra Mitra, Sarishtadar of the Bankura Additional Munsif's Court, is a scandal.

3. The Munshi is in the habit of fishing in a pond belonging to Rajballabh, brother of Radhaballabh Mitra of Muchchagarha. He has also some landed property in that village. Radhaballabh was appointed a muharrir on Rs. 25 per

month. He has since been appointed execution muharrir in disregard of the claims of a candidate who has passed the F. A. Examination!

4. The claim of Tarini Charan Sarkar, Accountant of Khatra, was ignored by the Munshi in making a recent appointment. Tarini Charan has, however, won by appealing against the Munshi's decision.

5. Ali Moktar is innocent of English, but still he has been appointed a muharrir by the sarishtadar in violation of a Government circular requiring knowledge of English in a muharrir.

6. Anandamay Ghosh has passed the Entrance Examination. He was a candidate for a post. But his claim was ignored by the sarishtadar in making a recent appointment which was given to an incompetent man.

7. The sarishtadar is also arbitrarily appointing peons from outside in disregard of the claims of those whose names are enrolled. To tell the truth, the Munshi wields absolute authority in the Copying Department and is having things all his own way.

9. The *Basumati* of the 23rd February has the following:—

The District Magistrate of Burdwan. We have heard from a friend two stories about

of the idiosyncrasies of Mr. Fisher, District Magistrate of Burdwan. Mr. Fisher is very fond of trees and

plants. He is particular about the planting of trees on both sides of the roads in the district. He also wants to see the branches of trees regularly pruned. One day, out on tour, Mr. Fisher came across some trees, the branches of which had bent low upon the road. Mr. Fisher at once resolved to cut down the branches, and ordered his peon to fetch a bamboo. The peon failed to procure one and was dismissed then and there. The Magistrate then took off his hat and coat, got upon a tree and went on cutting its branches. He then ordered the overseer to follow his example, and the two went on cutting the branches till 12 O'clock midnight. The next morning, determined to continue the cutting of branches, Mr. Fisher ordered the overseer to procure a bamboo ladder. The overseer, still suffering from the previous night's experience, declined to renew the cutting of trees, saying that "it was not his duty." We do not know whether the overseer has been dismissed.

Mr. Fisher has opened a Hospital Delicacy Fund, and has adopted a novel method of replenishing its coffer. There is a narrow pathway over the compound of Mr. Fisher's house. Mr. Fisher is in the habit of exacting fines from those who happen to frequent this pathway. Lately he fined two *syces* of a gentleman one rupee each for trespassing into his compound. The gentleman called upon the Magistrate to know what the matter was, and was told that he would have to pay the fine. The gentleman was shown a receipt in the following form:—"Received from Babu—Rs. 6 as contribution to the Hospital Delicacy Fund." The gentleman received from the Magistrate a similar receipt.

We do not know whether these stories about Mr. Fisher's vagaries are true or not. But these and similar other stories are in everybody's mouth in Burdwan. It is not, however, the young Magistrate who is so much to blame for these vagaries as the system of entrusting hot-headed young men with the charge of districts. Such vagaries will take place so long as this injudicious system is not abolished. The system of investing one and the same officer with both executive and judicial functions is also responsible for such vagaries.

(d)—*Education.*

10. It has been proposed, writes the *Hitavadi* of the 17th February, to

A "Rajkumar College" for establish in Bengal a college for the scions of zamindar families, similar in character to the

Rajkumar College established for the education of the sons of Native Chiefs. In their address to the Viceroy, the Zamindari Panchayat referred to the existing educational system in this country as highly unsatisfactory, both primary and high education being entirely unfit for native youth. The Viceroy assured the deputation that the Government was trying to make primary education as much useful as possible to native youth, but added that, as regards high education, the people should co-operate with the Government in increasing its usefulness. The zamindars of Bengal have perhaps taken their cue from the Viceroy, and hence this proposal to establish a college

Basumati,
Feb. 23rd, 1899.

Hitavadi,
Feb. 17th, 1899.

for their children. The writer will be glad to see a new college—a new and useful addition to the existing colleges—but he is not sanguine that its establishment will in any way tend to the promotion of the education of the scions of the aristocratic families in Bengal. The sons of zamindars in this country are generally indolent and fond of luxury. They are always averse to education. Even under the tuition of the late Raja Rajendra Lala Mitra, few sons of zamindars acquired intellectual proficiency of any kind. In fact, no one can teach a young man who is not disposed to learn anything. Such highly-educated zamindars as Raja Peary Mohan Mukharji are a proof of the fact that the existing system of education is good even for the sons of zamindars. Those sons of zamindars who think it beneath their dignity to sit on the same bench with the sons of common people are never likely to be educated, and their want of education should be laid at their own door. If the sons of zamindars are not disposed to learn, the establishment of a separate college for their education will be of very little service to them.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 18th, 1899.

11. The *Sanjivani* of the 18th February says that the announcement that Lord Curzon would preside at the convocation drew a large gathering to the ceremony, and everybody is praising His Excellency's speech. Most

people say that they never heard such a speech from any other Englishman. Every sentence of the speech was full of fire and spirit, and showed that His Excellency was an enthusiastic lover of learning and an ardent believer in its ennobling influence on the human mind. It has been gratifying to hear His Excellency say that he will pay his best attention to the education of this country. But it is rather alarming that he is thinking of the want of an Educational Secretary in the Government of India. The cause of true education might suffer at the hands of a Civilian Secretary.

SANJIVANI.

12. A correspondent of the same paper was charmed with the kind interest evinced by Mr. Cotton in the boys of the Munshi Bazar School in Maulvi Bazar in Assam, on the occasion of his recent visit to that institution. The

Chief Commissioner alighted from his carriage at some distance from the school, where the boys and the teachers had assembled to receive him, and had some attention to pay to each student. He expressed concern at seeing the rather sad countenances of most of the boys, and enquired the reason of this. No Chief Commissioner before Mr. Cotton treated school-boys with such personal sympathy. The boys looked sad, because most of them had been suffering from malarial fever and because they had got wet in the rain in coming to receive the Chief Commissioner. Mr. Cotton has justly become a very popular ruler.

BASUMATI,
Feb. 23rd, 1899.

13. The *Basumati* of the 23rd February writes as follows:—

Lord Curzon on education as managed by the Government of India. It appears from Lord Curzon's convocation address that he will keep a strict watch over the Education Department and may even open a new Education Department under a new Secretary in connection with the Government of India. This innovation may do us good or it may do us harm, and a good deal will depend upon the temperament of the Viceroy for the time being. The existing system, with all its faults, is a system to which we have got accustomed, and we cannot but regard the idea of a new system with suspicion.

(e) — Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

TRIPURA HITAISHI,
Feb. 16th, 1899.

Water-scarcity in a village in the Tippera district.

14. The *Tripura Hitaishi* of the 16th February draws attention to the scarcity of water from which the residents of Ibrahimpore, in the Nabinagar thana of the Tippera district, are suffering. The re-excavation of a tank is all that is required to remove the difficulty. The villagers should move the District Board for this purpose.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 17th, 1899.

A complaint in connection with the South Barrackpore Municipality.

15. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* of the 17th February protests against the proposal to exclude the Baharha, Sodpur and Natagarh wards and a portion of the Ghola ward of the South Barrackpore Municipality from municipal jurisdiction. These wards have been under municipal administration for the last thirty years, and some of them are very close to Barrackpore town. They

also pay more than many other wards of the Municipality. In 1895, a proposal similar to the present one was brought forward, but was reported against by the Subdivisional Officer and the District Magistrate. It is to be hoped that the Lieutenant-Governor will take the proposal into his careful consideration.

16. A correspondent of the same paper complains against the Naihati Municipality. Atpur, a village within the jurisdiction of this municipality, is in a very bad condition. The municipal rates are being gradually enhanced, but there is no tank, no dispensary, no road in good repair in the village. There is also no salaried tax-collector. The present tax-collector, who is paid by commission, does not regularly collect taxes. He allows rate-payers to run into arrears and then demands payment in full. If a rate-payer fails to clear off his dues, he is at once served with a warrant.

A complaint against the Naihati Municipality.

17. Writing again on the Naihati Municipality, the *Bangabandhu* of the 17th February says that it is, without doubt, high-handedness on the part of the clerks in the municipal office to refuse to tell people what the amounts of their taxes are, or to lose temper and make wry faces at people in reply to their enquiries. The other day some respectable people were insulted by the head clerk. It is also injustice if men, who have been long assessed at not more than a rupee, are made to pay three or four times that amount. The Magistrate of the 24-Parganas ought to enquire why complaints are so rife against the municipality now while there were no complaints against it before.

(f)—*Questions affecting the land.*

18. The *Hitavadi* of the 17th February has the following with reference to Mr. Cotton's scheme of colonisation in Assam:—

The Assam colonisation scheme.

The Government of India has not been well advised in not accepting Mr. Cotton's scheme in its entirety. That Government has fallen into an error in regarding sixty-six years as too long a period for a lease. When the Government first launched the scheme of reclaiming the waste lands of the Sunderbans, it granted leases for ninety-nine years. But for such long leases, the Sunderbans would not have been reduced to cultivation. Even now a lease for forty years is granted for culturable wastes in the Sunderbans. We, therefore, fail to understand why the Government of India is loath to grant a lease for sixty-six years for culturable wastes in Assam. People will not go to Assam so long as it is not brought home to them that immigrants are wanted to colonise the uninhabited tracts of Assam under Government or zamindari supervision. At first sight, the scheme of colonisation will be taken by the general public as a bait for procuring coolies for the Assam tea-gardens. This popular impression, together with the unhealthy climate of Assam and its distance from the thickly-populated districts of India, will act as a great obstacle in the way of the proposed colonisation. This being the case, no capitalist will venture to largely invest his money in reclaiming the waste lands of Assam, if a lease for a long term is not granted. Taking all things into consideration, sixty-six years cannot be said to be too long a term for a lease.

So much for the refusal of the Government of India to grant a lease for sixty-six years. As for its refusal to grant leases to zamindars as intermediaries between the Government and the raiyats, Mr. Cotton's reply is more than a clincher. Here is what Mr. Cotton says:—

"The narrow induction drawn from occasional disturbances sometimes misleads us into the delusion that general disaffection exists. * * * The occasional agrarian demonstrations to which so much importance has unduly been attached have, for the most part, been stirred up by the injudicious interference of zealous officials, who in their ignorant prejudice brand a whole class of the community as inherently vicious, and are incapable of recognising that the changes which must eventually take place ought to be allowed to arise spontaneously out of the circumstances in which the country is placed."

Indeed, the attachment which is likely to exist between the raiyat and the zamindar is not likely to exist between the raiyat and a foreign Government professing a foreign religion. The Government is never likely to be so

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intimately acquainted with the raiyat's condition as the zamindar. The zamindar should, therefore, be kept as an intermediary between the Government and the raiyat. The raiyats of *khās mahals* which are under the direct control of the Government are not better off than the raiyats on zamindars' estates. Not a fourth part of the oppression which is committed in the *khās mahals* is committed in zamindaris. The raiyats, moreover, are most likely to believe more in a zamindar than in an official, and none but a zamindar will be able to induce them to leave their ancestral homes and take up their abodes in Assam.

In the opinion of the Government of India, Assam will in course of time be populated by the time-expired coolies of the tea-gardens. This is no doubt true. But nothing but immigration from the thickly-populated districts of India will colonise the uninhabited tracts of Assam as fast as is desirable. The Government of India is, moreover, afraid that Mr. Cotton's scheme will prejudicially affect the interests of the Assam tea-planters. This is an unfounded belief. Mr. Cotton has not ignored the interests of tea-planters in his scheme of colonisation, and the Government of India would have done well by accepting his proposal in its entirety. This scheme, if given effect to, will increase the income of the Government at the same time that it will increase the prosperity of the people, by diminishing the pressure upon the land in the congested districts of the country.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

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19. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* of the 17th February complains that there are no satisfactory arrangements at the stations on the East Indian Railway for supplying

A railway complaint.
passengers with water. The *pani pandé* is rarely seen on the platforms, and if he ever puts in his appearance, he appears so late and works so slowly that it is impossible for him to serve one and all. The Railway Company every summer orders the employment of two men at each station to supply passengers with water. But unfortunately they are never met with when wanted. The attention of the Railway authorities should be drawn to this matter, but the grievances of railway passengers are never likely to be redressed so long as the station-masters are not required to submit to the higher authorities a weekly report of public complaints.

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20. The *Basumati* of the 23rd February advises the Eastern Bengal State Railway authorities to open a station at Keutia, midway between Kanchrapara and Madanpur. Kuliarpeth, a village near Keutia, is a place of pilgrimage and no less than 50 or 60 thousand people visit that place every year. The Railway Company realizes no less than 15 to 16 thousand rupees from these pilgrims, and if it opens the proposed station, it will benefit not only these pilgrims, but also the inhabitants of the villages of Birni, Subarnapur, Mollabale, Jaguli, Kuliarpeth, Joydevbati, Dogache, Singé, and Bhawanipur, who will be better served by a station at Kentia.

(h) —*General.*

DAINIK CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 22nd, 1899.

21. It is said, writes the *Dainik Chandrika*, that a surplus will be shown in the next Imperial Budget. If there really be a surplus in that budget, there will necessarily be a surplus in the Provincial budgets, for, according to Sir James Westland, Provincial revenue is a part and parcel of Imperial revenue. Taking it, therefore, for granted, that there will be a surplus in the Bengal Provincial budget, the writer appeals to the Viceroy, as well as to the Lieutenant-Governor, to utilise at least a small portion of the surplus in increasing the salaries of the low-paid clerks and ministerial officers of the Government. Their pay was fixed long ago. Since that time the prices of commodities have risen and the wants of the people have multiplied. In these days of high prices it has become impossible for them to make two ends meet. The Government has not been always indifferent to their case. In 1885, a Commission was appointed to enquire into their grievances and the majority of the Commissioners advised the Government to increase their pay.

To partially give effect to that decision of the Commission, Mr. Risley, not long ago, proposed to increase the pay of the ministerial officers of the Bengal Government at a cost of three lakhs of rupees; but his proposal was not sanctioned. Mr. Risley is now Financial Secretary to the Government of India, and it is hoped that he will bring his proposal to the notice of the Government and try his best to have it carried out. To tell the truth, it is a great injustice not to increase the low pay of these hardworked public servants, while European officials, drawing fat salaries and enjoying all service privileges, have been granted compensation allowance at no little cost to the Government.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

22. The *Praticasi* of the 20th February writes as follows:—

The amendment of the Contract Act.

The recent amendment of the Contract Act will, no doubt, greatly relieve raiyats from the exactions of money lenders. But it will be too

much to hope that it will either diminish litigation or remove every grievance of the raiyats. It is true, raiyats can, in some places, get loans from their zamindars at a moderate rate of interest. But in most places they must resort to the *mahajan*; and in all such cases the *mahajan* will carry his point, the new law notwithstanding. Oppression by money-lenders cannot in fact be checked if Government cannot see its way to establishing agricultural banks, or if zamindars do not come forward to help their raiyats.

PRATIVASI,
Feb. 20th, 1899.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

23. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* of the 12th February writes as follows:—

A change in the tone of the Anglo-Indian press.

With the advent of Lord Curzon, there has been a remarkable change for the better in the tone of the Anglo-Indian newspapers. The *Englishman* is correctly reporting the proceedings of the protest meetings against the Calcutta Municipal Bill; the *Pioneer* is favourably considering the resolutions passed by the Indian National Congress, and the *Civil and Military Gazette* is writing in favour of the admission of natives into the army. This change in the tone of the Anglo-Indian press has pleased us. The editor's is a responsible duty, and religion and morality cannot be divorced from its performance. The editor must always do his duty impartially. If this change in the tone of the Anglo-Indian papers continues, the Indian and the Anglo-Indian press will soon be on friendly terms with each other.

CHINSURA
VARTAVAH,

Feb. 12th, 1899.

24. The *Hitavadi* of the 17th February has the following:—

The *Sanjivani* on the alleged courtesy in Government House.

A cutting article headed "Discourtesy in Government House" appears in the *Sanjivani* of the 11th instant, in which the writer has made unfavourable comments upon the Bengali character. We do not feel inclined to believe all that has been said in this article, and we are certainly in a position to contradict some of the remarks made therein. To tell the truth, it is too much to expect one to believe that a common *chaprasi* discourteously addressed such men as the Maharaja of Darbhanga, and asked them to point out their "headman." So much for our contemporary's remarks in connection with the deputation from the Zamindari Panchayat. As for his remarks with reference to the deputation from the Indian Association, they are so exaggerated and distorted that it is impossible to believe them. This is what the *Sanjivani* writes with reference to the deputation from the Indian Association:—

"A deputation from the Indian Association went to present an address to the Viceroy. A *chaprasi* came out and asked them to tell him the name of their 'headman.' They pointed to Babu Ananda Mohan Bose. The *chaprasi* took Babu Ananda Mohan to an Aid-de-Camp, who, in a most ungentlemanly manner, asked him—'What is your name?' The Aid-de-Camp then pointed to the other members of the deputation, and said that those among them who had come in native costume must take off their shoes before entering the Throne Room. Mr. Jogesh Chandra Chaudhuri, Barrister-at-Law, and one of the zamindars of Gobardanga, who were dressed in *choga*, *chapkan*, and *pagri*, thought it better to come away than submit to the humiliation of taking off their shoes."

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We were present in Government House on the day on which the above incident is said to have occurred, and are therefore in a position to contradict the *Sanjivani*'s exaggerated description. What really occurred is this: When we entered the waiting-room in Government House we met there Mr. Jogesh Chandra Chaudhuri and a friend of his, who were attired in laced *jobbas* and loose *pajamas* and had native shoes on. We remember to have taunted Jogesh Babu for his dress and to have remarked that *darbar* rules would not permit of his carrying his native shoes to the Throne Room. "This," said he in reply, "is also my brother's opinion, but I think that it was a joke. Why shall I be required to take off my shoes?"

No *chaprasi* discourteously addressed the members of the deputation. A *chaprasi* came out and asked them if their President had come. He then took the President and other members of the deputation to the Throne Room, where an Aid-de-Camp asked them to take their seats. The Aid-de-Camp's attention was then drawn to the strange costumes of Jogesh Babu and his friend, and he said that those gentlemen who had Indian-fashioned shoes on would please leave them at the door. Upon this Jogesh Babu and his friend left the Throne Room.

This is the long and short of what really took place and we fail to understand why the *Sanjivani* has given a distorted account of the matter. No one said that the members of the deputation who were in native costume would have to take off their shoes. The *Sanjivani* further observes as follows:—

"On seeing two of their number come away, the other members of the deputation took counsel together as to the best course to adopt under the circumstances. But only one of them thought fit to leave Government House, and the rest, with the sheepishness characteristic of the Bengalis, remained, but had not the courage to tell the Viceroy a word of what had happened. Such cowardliness was not expected in the members of the Indian Association."

This is also untrue. When two of the members left the hall, there was no discussion, no taking of counsel together among the rest of the members. Babu Heramba Chandra Maitra of the *Sanjivani* came to Babu Kali Charan Banerji and whispered in his ear that the deputation should at once leave the hall. We sat next to Kali Babu and told him that no such thing should be done. For according to *darbar* rules no one could enter the Throne Room with native shoes on, just as no one in European costume could enter it with a hat or a cap on. It would be highly discourteous to break a *darbar* rule. Upon this, Heramba Babu left the hall, but no one followed him.

This is the long and short of the matter, and we fail to understand why so much fuss has been made over the affair. Does our contemporary mean to say that Babu Ananda Mohan Bose and others possess no self-respect and that he possesses a monopoly of that commodity? Who, again, is discourteous—he who would violate an established custom or he who asks one to obey it like a gentleman?

25. The *Bangarasi* of the 18th February writes as follows:—

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An objectionable correspond-
ence in the *Englishman*.

A correspondent under the *nom-de-plume* of

"Captain Cuttle" writes in the *Englishman* of the

18th February about the Meerut shooting accident. In his opinion, European soldiers may enter Hindu villages and shoot peacocks and monkeys held sacred by Hindus, and bullets from their guns may even enter into the bodies of the people; but no Hindu should dare to roughly handle them on that account. Such conduct on the part of a Hindu will be the height of impudence. Let Lord Curzon mark the sentiment this correspondent of the *Englishman* has expressed. European soldiers have, according to him, the liberty of treating natives as no better than birds and beasts. They have the liberty not only of shooting peacocks and monkeys, but also of shooting natives, who have been born, as it were, to be butts for their guns! And this writing appears in a paper which is styled the *Englishman*! Whose discredit does this proclaim—of the rulers or of the ruled?

26. The *Sanjivani* of the 18th February writes as follows:—

In our last we complained of discourtesy in
Government House (Report on Native Papers for
House—a retraction).

18th February, paragraph 27), our information
having been obtained from a gentleman who occupies a prominent position

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among educated Indians. We have something to say to-day about the last portion of our complaint. Among the deputation which waited on the Viceroy on behalf of the Indian Association were two gentlemen in Moghul dress and with native shoes on. Probably their singular costume attracted the notice of the Aid-de-Camp, and, taking Babu Ananda Mohan Bose aside, he told him that according to custom those two gentlemen would have to take off their shoes. But Babu Ananda Mohan said that the shoe question had never been raised in Calcutta, and it would be well not to raise it. The Aid-de-Camp went away, apparently to take somebody's advice and, on returning, told Ananda Mohan Babu that the rule which has all along prevailed could not be violated; but the gentlemen might take off their shoes only when coming in the presence of the Viceroy. At this, the two gentlemen, namely, the zamindar of Gobardanga and Mr. J. Chaudhuri, left Government House. We are glad to inform our readers that the Aid-de-Camp did in no way behave discourteously towards the gentlemen in question, but had his request to them conveyed through Babu Ananda Mohan. It was his duty to make the unpleasant request, and he performed his duty without making any violation of etiquette.

We must, however, condemn the rule which requires gentlemen intending to wait on the Viceroy to take off their shoes, if they be wearing native shoes. One can come into the presence of the Viceroy with English shoes on, be they worth no more than a rupee or a rupee and a quarter, but native shoes worth four times as much must not be taken into the Throne Room! This is certainly an anomaly which cannot be explained, and which ought to be done away with.

27. The *Basumatî* of the 23rd February writes as follows:—

The moral character of European officials.

According to a correspondent of the *Black and White*, many European officials in India and Burma are in the habit of keeping one or two native women as concubines. No secret is made of this, and even the wives of the official superiors of these officers know it. Still they permit these men to join their company, and even allow them to have *tête-à-tête* with young girls fresh from home. Such conduct is not looked upon in a bad light in Anglo-Indian society. A young European official may have native concubines in his keeping and may yet marry a European lady, without falling in the estimation of his society. But let him marry a native woman and down comes that society upon him and down goes he in its estimation. He is at once ostracised. This is no doubt a serious charge, but we believe that there is truth in it. The vices of European officials can never be kept concealed; all their doings by night become public property the next morning through the agency of their *khansamas*. Native officers in their small talk, make the doings of their official European superiors their principal topic, and their vices and diseases are freely talked about in native official circles. The Government should keep a strict watch over the morals of young European officials; for official immorality is sure to make the administration of the country a difficult affair.

BASUMATI,
Feb. 23rd, 1899.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 25th February 1899.

